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In The

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1956

No. [redacted]

BRYAN E. FORD, Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

John P. Lomenzo
Times Square Bldg.
Rochester 14, New York

Counsel for Petitioner

Sydney R. Rubin
310 Wilder Bldg.,
Rochester 14, New York

Counsel for Petitioner

August 31, 1956

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No.

BRYAN E. FORD, Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

Petitioner, Bryan E. Ford, prays that a writ of certiorari be issued to review a judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, entered on August 6, 1956.

OPINIONS BELOW

The District Court wrote no opinion. The opinion of the Court of Appeals (copy attached hereto) is not yet reported.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals was entered on August 6, 1956. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. section 1254 (1).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

(1). Whether the petitioner, a police officer, could properly be convicted of income tax evasion on the net worth theory, in the use of which the government attributed to him the assets and expenditures of his family, without a showing that petitioner had a likely source of income from which net worth increases might have sprung?

(2). Whether allegedly inconsistent extra-judicial statements made by the petitioner concerning the source of his assets might properly be treated as proof that such assets were derived from a current taxable source for purposes of satisfying the "likely source" requirement and making out a prima facie case?

(3). Whether the requirements with respect to due process of law, use of circumstantial evidence, and trial by jury were satisfied where petitioner's conviction was upheld on a theory completely different from that on which he was prosecuted and on which the trial judge charged the jury, the majority of the Court of Appeals saying that such charge was "too favorable" to the defendant?

(4). Whether evidence which was introduced to permit the jury to infer that petitioner was a grafting policeman, but which was concededly insufficient for that purpose, was nevertheless non-prejudicial, assuming that the jury might have convicted the petitioner without such evidence?

(5). Whether the safeguards and criteria laid down by this Court in Holland v. United States, 348 U.S. 121 and companion cases for use in net worth prosecutions were properly observed, particularly with respect to burden of proof, net worth starting point, and corroboration?

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND STATUTES INVOLVED

The Fifth Amendment provides, in pertinent part:

> "No person shall be * * * deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law * * *."

The Sixth Amendment provides, in pertinent part:

> "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and District wherein the crime shall have been committed * * *."

Section 145 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939 provides:

> "Failure to collect and pay over tax, or attempt to defeat or evade tax. Any person required under this chapter to collect, account for, and pay over any tax imposed by this Chapter, who willfully fails to collect or truthfully account for and pay over such tax, and any person who willfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat any tax imposed by this chapter or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than $10,000, or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. (26 U.S.C. 1946 ed., Sec. 145 (b)).

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The petitioner was indicted on five counts charging income tax evasion for the years 1947 through 1951. The government, at the trial, relied on the so-called "net worth" theory of proof. Petitioner was convicted on the counts for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 and was acquitted on the count for 1951. The jury was unable to agree on the count for the first year, 1947.

Petitioner was employed as a policeman in Rochester, New York during the indictment years, and was assigned to special duty investigating vice at various times during some of those years. There was no evidence, however, that he was engaged in vice investigation at any time during the year 1950 (Opinion, App. 2).[1]

In constructing its net worth chart (Ex. 80, Opinion, App. 18), the government gave petitioner no credit for cash on hand at the beginning of any indictment year. Treating the petitioner and his family as an economic unit, it imputed to his earnings the assets and expenditures of his wife and children (Opinion, App. 3; R. 1290). In this manner, it calculated unreported income for the conviction years (1948, 1949, 1950) in the amounts of $7,892.20, $2,976.17 and $1,103.22, respectively (Ex. 80; Opinion, App. 3, 18). The claimed tax evasion for those years was $1,900.04 for 1948, $646.64 for 1949, and $378.32 for 1950 -- a total of $2,925.00. (Ex. 82; R. 973). The application of the net worth method to the year 1951 indicated an overpayment of tax (Ex. 80, Opinion App. 3).

As stated in the majority opinion below, "It was the Government's theory that the unreported taxable income as indicated by its net worth chart was graft received by the defendant for non-performance of his duties as a policeman and as a member of the vice squad." (App. 4). There was no evidence that the petitioner ever received a bribe, but the government relied upon so-called "opportunities"

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1. This refers to the opinion of the Court of Appeals, reproduced in the appendix to this petition; page references are to the pages of the appendix.

flowing from his position. (Opinion, App. 4). In this connection, it introduced evidence of extensive gambling activity in Rochester during the spring and early summer of 1948 when petitioner was on the vice squad; evidence that he had been told of the sale of policy slips in 1948 but that no action was taken until two other officers made an arrest; statistics of gambling cases in Rochester City Court; and evidence that petitioner was on "friendly terms" with a professional gambler. (Opinion, App. 4, 20).

Although petitioner did not testify at the trial, he made a number of extra-judicial statements to investigators concerning his assets and expenditures. The Court below stated that there was evidence that these were "inconsistent, false and misleading." (Opinion, App. 9).

The Court of Appeals affirmed the petitioner's conviction by a 2 to 1 vote. Judge Hincks wrote the majority opinion. Judge Frank forcefully dissented on several major issues.

In affirming, the majority of the Court of Appeals held that proof of a "likely source" of income was not necessary to sustain the conviction in this case. (Opinion, App. 13). Although the trial judge, in line with the theory of the prosecution, had instructed the jury that, to convict, it must find that the petitioner actually received graft. (R. 1296), the majority of the Court below held that in this respect "the charge was too favorable to the defendant." (Opinion, App. 13 f. n. 12).

The petitioner is presently free on bail. The mandate of the Court of Appeals has been stayed pending disposition of this petition.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

I.

IN AFFIRMING THE DEFENDANT'S CONVICTION ON THE NET WORTH THEORY WITHOUT PROOF OF A LIKELY SOURCE OF INCOME, THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS IS IN ERROR, AND CONFLICTS WITH APPLICABLE DECISIONS OF THIS COURT AND OF OTHER COURTS OF APPEALS.

A. The decision below conflicts with this Court's opinion in the Holland case, and with decisions of the First and Sixth Circuits.

In Holland v. United States, 348 U. S. 121 (1954), this Court said:

> "Increases in net worth, standing alone, cannot be assumed to be attributable to currently taxable income. But proof of a likely source, from which the jury could reasonably find that the net worth increases sprang is sufficient." 348 U. S. 121, 137, 138.

On the same day that the Holland case was decided, this Court also decided three other "net worth" cases: Friedberg v. United States, 348 U.S. 142 (1954); Smith v. United States, 348 U. S. 147 (1954); and United States v. Calderon, 348 U. S. 160 (1954). In its opinion in Holland this Court said:

> "In each of the four cases decided today, the allegedly unreported income comes from the same disclosed sources as produced the taxpayer's reported income * * * " 348 U.S. 121, 126.

On April 12, 1956, the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, in Constantine Thomas v. Commissioner, 232 F. 2d 520, reversed the Tax Court in a civil net worth fraud case because, among other things the government had failed to show a likely source of income. Citing and relying upon this Court's decision in the Holland case, supra, the Court of Appeals said (at p. 526):

> "Respondent contends that this rule [requiring proof of a likely source] has no application in cases involving the civil fraud penalty or routine cases of deficiency. We do not agree. We think it is of equal importance in a civil case to show that the taxpayer's net worth increases are attributable to currently taxable income. It seems to us more reasonable to view this particular requirement as an indispensable element of the net worth method in any of its applications rather than as an additional safeguard superimposed upon the net worth method for the sole benefit of defendants in criminal cases -- particularly in view

of the very favorable position which such persons already enjoy with respect to the burden of proof." (Emphasis supplied)

The Court expressly remanded the case "for findings of a likely source of taxable income."

The Thomas case was a unanimous decision by a Court consisting of Chief Judge Magruder, and Associate Judges Woodbury and Harrigan. Its unequivocal holding that the showing of a "likely source" is "an indispensable element" in any net worth case would a fortiori apply in a criminal net worth case.

In Kashat v. Commissioner, 229 F. 2d 282 (C. A. 6th 1956), also a civil net worth fraud case, the taxpayer explained his sudden wealth by a story which the Court of Appeals described as "bizarre." It stated that the Tax Court, in upholding the fraud penalties, "relied upon certain inconsistencies and contradictions in the taxpayer's conduct and evidence." The Court of Appeals nevertheless eliminated the fraud penalties and held that, "The Government's evidence fell far short of proof of fraudulent intent by the petitioners to evade their taxes." In this connection it said (at p. 285):

> "What stands out, however, in the Government's case is the total lack of any suggestion whatsoever as to a source of substantial income to the taxpayer other than the claimed inheritance. * * * The Government submitted no affirmative proof of falsity. It based its case merely upon an inference of incredibility. There were no admissions to corroborate the net worth statement, as in Holland and associated cases, no sources of income uncovered from which substantial receipts of undisclosed income might be inferred." (Emphasis supplied).

In the instant case, the majority of the Court of Appeals do not find that the government established a likely source of income. They concede that it did not. They say that " 'Likely source' is but one method to negative all the possible nontaxable sources of the alleged net worth increases: it is not always an indispensable element in a net worth case." United States v. Adonis, 3 Cir., 221 Fed (2d) 717. "(Emphasis supplied). (APP. 13) Though the trial judge had charged the jury otherwise (R. 1296), the majority say that the charge in this respect "was too favorable to the

defendant." (App. 13. f.n. 12).

The instant decision is thus plainly in square conflict with the First Circuit's Thomas case and with the Sixth Circuit's Kashat case, supra.

We also respectfully submit that it conflicts with this Court's decision in Holland. It is true, as Judge Frank observes, that in Holland this Court said that proof of a likely source is "sufficient;" "and one can argue that there is a difference between what is an essential and what is "sufficient." (App. 23). But as Judge Frank also shows, an analysis of the facts and the language in the Holland and related opinions points clearly to the showing of a likely source of current income as a necessary element of proof in the Government's case.

The source requirement was well established long before this Court decided Holland. The lower courts, and indeed the government, accepted the principle that at least a "possible" source of income must be shown to substantiate a charge of current unreported income in a net worth case. United States v. Chapman, 168 F. 2d 997 (C.A. 7th 1948), cert. denied 335 U.S. 853; Gleckman v. United States, 80 F. 2d 394 (C.A. 8th 1935); Kirsch v. United States, 174 F. 2d 595 (C.A. 8th 1949).

In the Holland case in this Court the source question was a principal issue. The Government's brief in this Court in that case did not take issue with the source requirement; on the contrary, it took pains to establish that a probable source had been shown (brief of United States in Holland v. U.S. in this Court, pp. 8-11). And in the related Smith case, the Government's brief filed in the First Circuit stated (at p. 31):

> "This inference [of understatement of income], in turn, may be drawn by a jury only if two conditions obtain: (1) that there is evidence of a possible source of income to account for the expenditure or increases in net worth, which evidence serves to eliminate the possibility that the expenditures or increases in net worth were attributable to nontaxable sources, such as gifts or inheritances; and (2) that there is a fixed starting point * * *." (Emphasis supplied).

See also, Meyer Rothwacks, "Indirect Proof of Income in Tax Evasion Prosecutions," Paper Submitted at Symposium of American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, on Tax Fraud Cases, September 1950, p. 60, in which the law at that time is summed up as follows:

> "There is a substantial amount of case law on criminal tax prosecutions based on net worth-expenditure evidence. Most of the cases are recent. They make it clear that the Government must prove (1) a source of income and (2) satisfactory starting point net worth."

The author at that time was Chief of the Criminal Tax Section, Tax Division, Department of Justice; however, the paper did not purport to be an official expression of the Department's views.

It appears, therefore, that this Court in Holland simply adopted and strengthened the source requirement as previously announced by the lower courts and as understood by the government and Bar alike.

To the extent that the Smith, Calderon, and Friedberg opinions in this Court dealt with the source requirement at all, they support the views of Judge Frank rather than those of the majority of the Court below. Thus, in Smith, this Court points to "the Government's proof of expenditures far in excess of reported income, coupled with proof of a business producing unrecorded amounts of income," as corroborating the charge of tax evasion. 384 U.S. 147, 159. (Emphasis supplied).

In the instant case, the majority of the Court below say that the government "established unreported current receipts from some source" and then make an easy but unsupported gloss to the conclusion that "some source" must have been a "taxable source." The evidence showing the "possibility of graft," they say, has a "tendency" to show this. (App. 13). But as Judge Frank points out, the evidence on this score is far too flimsy to support this conclusion, quite apart from the fact that this Court in Holland speaks in terms of a "likely source" -- not a possible one. (App. 19, 21, 22).

B. The government's attribution of family assets and expenditures to the petitioner's income makes the source question critical in this case.

In constructing its net worth chart in the instant case, the government, as the majority opinion says (App. p. 3), "treated the defendant and his family as an economic unit and calculated the defendant's liabilities, and expenditures on that basis." The government did more than that. As the trial judge stated in his charge to the jury, the government took the position that "the defendant's wife had no assets of her own and that all of the assets that were held in her name or in the children's name were in reality the assets of the defendant and came from moneys which he had earned as income." (R. 1290). (Emphasis supplied). These assets and expenditures included, among others, bank accounts, government bonds, car purchases, and the Gregory Hill residence. (Exhibits 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25-A, 26, 27, 32, 39, 40-A, 60, 61, 63, 64, 68, 71, 72, 75, 77; R. 236, 521, 524, 853-855, 439, 440, 531).

Thus, a major item in the government's net worth chart (Ex. 80) is the Gregory Hill residence which was in the joint names of the defendant and his wife (Ex. 39). Mrs. Ford testified that she received money from various relatives which went to pay for that house (R. 1232, 133, 140, 1247-1249). True, the jury need not have believed her. But absent proof that the defendant had at least a likely source of income from which the cost of the house might have been derived, there is clearly no more basis for attributing that cost to his earnings than to the earnings or receipts of other members of the family group. The same goes for the other assets of this "economic unit."

The source question, we submit, is therefore critical in this case, however one may feel about the correctness of the decision in United States v. Adonis, 221 F. 2d 717 (C. A. 3rd), upon which the majority relies, where there was no such imputation of family assets

and expenditures to the defendant's earnings.

The trial judge may very well have had this in mind when he charged the jury that, to convict, it must find that the defendant took graft (R. 1296). The majority opinion of the Court of Appeals therefore errs in saying that in this respect "the charge was too favorable to the defendant." (App. 13, f. n. 12).

We might also point out, in this connection, that on this critical question -- the necessity of the government's establishing a likely source of income -- the four judges who participated in this case are thus evenly divided.

C. Without a showing that petitioner had a likely source of income there is no basis for inferring that he had unreported currently taxable income.

This Court further said in Holland: (348 U. S. 121, 137)

> "Also requisite to the use of the net worth method is evidence supporting the inference that the defendant's net worth increases are attributable to currently taxable income."

Proof of a likely source of income during the indictment years, such as was present in Holland and its companion cases, may support such an inference. But in the instant case, we submit, there is no basis whatever for an inference that the petitioner had current unreported taxable income, without a showing that he had a current source capable of producing it. *

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* The majority opinion says (App. 14) that on appeal it was suggested that petitioner may have taken graft in pre-indictment years and thus built up a cash hoard at the beginning of the net worth period. Petitioner made no such suggestion at any stage of the proceeding, but consistently maintained to the contrary.

II

THE DECISION BELOW HAD THE EFFECT OF UNCONSTITUTIONALLY SHIFTING THE BURDEN OF PROOF TO THE PETITIONER AND OF DENYING HIM EFFECTIVE TRIAL BY JURY.

A. Petitioner's claimed inconsistent statements could not properly be relied-upon to provide an essential link in the government's case.

This Court held in Holland v. United States, 348 U. S. 121, as we read it, that proof of unexplained net worth increases, plus an investigation as to gifts, inheritances, loans and the like, will not alone suffice to carry the government's burden of proof in a net worth criminal tax case.

We have contended under Point I that there must be, in addition, proof of a likely source of income, both to negative the possibility that the increase came from non-taxable sources and to support an inference that the increase represents current income. This was lacking in the instant case.

To make the critical jump from their finding that the defendant had unreported receipts during the indictment years from "some source" to their conclusion that the source was a currently taxable one, the majority of the Court below therefore rely upon claimed "inconsistent, false and misleading extrajudicial statements" which the petitioner made concerning the source of his assets (Opinion, App. 9, 10).

Assuming, as the majority say, that the jury could have found such statements to be false, we submit that they do not take the place of a likely source of income to supply the essential link in the government's case. For, unlike proof of a likely taxable source, they neither negative the liklihood that the assets may have come from some non-taxable source, nor do they help to fulfill the current income requirement. At most, such statements may serve to strengthen a prima facie case already established. They cannot make the case itself. Cf. Alberty v. U.S. 162 U. S. 499, 510; Vick v. U. S. 216

F. 2d 228, 232 (C. A. 5th)

These statements were made under the pressures of investigation, and as this Court observed in Holland a taxpayer in such circumstances --

> "may be more concerned with a quick settlement than an honest search for the truth. Moreover, the prosecution may pick and choose from the taxpayer's statement, relying on the favorable portion and throwing aside that which does not bolster its position." 348 U. S. at pp. 128, 129.

Even affirmative admissions of tax evasion must be corroborated to support a conviction. Smith v. United States, 348 U. S. 147; United States v. Calderon, 348 U. S. 160. Petitioner's statements were not corroborated admissions, but denials.

In treating inconsistent statements as a substitute for proof of a likely source, the decision below in effect shifts to the defendant the burden of proving his innocence. It also conflicts with the decision in Kashat v. Commissioner, 229 F. 2d 282 (C. A. 6th 1956), which reversed imposition of a civil fraud penalty partly for failure to show a likely source of income, notwithstanding "inconsistencies and contradictions in the taxpayer's conduct and evidence." Cf. also United States v. O'Malley (not officially reported), 55-1 U. S. T. C. par. 9492 (E. D. Pa.), dismissing a criminal indictment for failure to show source of income, notwithstanding defendant's inconsistent statements.

B. The Court erred in upholding the conviction on a theory completely different from that on which the prosecution tried the case and on which the trial judge charged the jury.

The prosecution tried this case on the theory that the petitioner was a grafter. The evidence concerning the so-called "opportunities" of his position was intended to support that contention. In recognition of the source requirement, the trial judge instructed the jury, that, to convict, it "must find that the defendant actually received graft". (Opinion, App. 13, f. n. 12).

The Court below does not uphold the conviction on that theory. This would have been a simple matter if the evidence supported it, but apparently even the majority of the court below concede that it does not. Instead, the majority opinion labors through many pages to evolve a different theory upon which the jury might have found the defendant guilty had it been properly instructed.

We respectfully submit that Judge Frank's attack on this approach (App. 22, 23) is unanswerable. Clearly, the majority's comment that the charge was "too favorable to the defendant," is no answer (App. 13, f. n. 12). For sending the case to the jury on a theory permitting it to find that the petitioner was a grafter, when there was no probative evidence of this fact, could not fail to be highly prejudicial.

In the same way the admission of the flimsy evidence relating to "opportunities" for graft was relevant and proper only if the trial judge's theory was right -- i. e., only if the receipt of graft as a likely source of income was essential to the government's case. If it was not, as the majority say, then it was not relevant and its admission was not proper. The majority say that evidence "showing the possibility of graft" was "properly received as corroborative". (App. 13). But without some evidence of graft connected with the petitioner, admittedly lacking, there was nothing for it to corroborate.

The theory of the Court of Appeals in affirming the conviction on this ground is in conflict with this Court's opinion in Kotteakos v. United States, 328 U. S. 750 (1946). There, the trial judge had charged the jury that there was only one conspiracy, when in fact eight separate conspiracies were shown. In affirming, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit said of this charge:

> "That was of course an error, as we have said but it favored the accused." (Emphasis supplied) 151 F. 2d 170, 174.

It upheld the conviction for lack of prejudice.

This Court reversed, by a vote of 6 to 2. It said, in part:

> "Thus, it is not the appellate court's function to determine guilt or innocence. * * * Nor is it to speculate upon probable reconviction and decide according to how the speculation comes out. Appellate judges cannot escape such impressions. But they may not make them sole criteria for reversal or affirmance. Those judgments are exclusively for the jury * * *.
>
> "The inquiry cannot be merely whether there was enough to support the result, apart from the phase affected by the error: It is rather, even so, whether the error itself had substantial influence. If so, or if one is left in grave doubt, the conviction cannot stand." 328 U. S. at 763, 765.

Similarly, in Bollenbach v. United States, 326 U. S. 607, 615, this Court said:

> "From presuming too often all errors to be 'prejudicial', the judicial pendulum need not swing to presuming all errors to be 'harmless' if only the appellate court is left without doubt that one who claims its corrective process is, after all, guilty. In view of the importance that trial by jury has in our Bill of Rights, it is not to be supposed that Congress intended to substitute the belief of appellate judges in the guilt of an accused, however justifiably engendered by the dead record, for ascertainment of guilt by a jury under appropriate judicial guidance, however cumbersome that process may be." (Emphasis supplied)

It is interesting to note that in the Kotteakos case, supra, as in this case, the Court of Appeals characterized the error in the charge as one which "favored the accused." 151 F. 2d 170, 174. As Judge Frank says, this is a "quaint way of characterizing a charge centering on prejudicial evidence" which might very well account for the verdict. (App. 22, 23).

III

THE INSTANT DECISION GOES FAR BEYOND ANY REPORTED NET-WORTH CASE, AND DISREGARDS THE SAFEGUARDS WHICH THIS COURT LAID DOWN IN THE HOLLAND AND RELATED CASES.

This petitioner has been sentenced to a jail term on the strength of a net worth chart purporting to show a total of about $12,000 of understatement for the three conviction years (Ex. 80; App. 3, 18), resulting in a claimed tax discrepancy for those years of less than $3,000. (Ex. 82; R. 973) And this without a showing that the petitioner even had a likely source of unreported income for those years!

The government has thus pushed to new frontiers in net worth prosecutions in this case. The extreme to which the decision below goes is indicated by the affirmance of the conviction for the year 1950 -- a year for which the claimed tax evasion totalled $~~1103.22~~ 378.32 (Ex. 82), and during which there was no evidence that petitioner was even on the vice squad. (Opinion, App. 2). If this decision stands, the door will be wide open for prosecution of any public servant, or for that manner any employee in a position of responsibility, who, for a variety of reasons, may be unable to explain away a moderate net worth "bulge."

We are here dealing with a method which this Court has described as "fraught with danger for the innocent" -- a theory of prosecution in which "circumstantial evidence as to guilt is the chief weapon of a method that is itself only an approximation." Holland v. U.S., 348 U. S. 121, 125, 129. There, this Court said that the deficiencies involved in that case and the companion cases were nothing like those in the early net worth cases to reach this Court. In the instant case, the amounts involved are a fraction of what they were in Holland and its companion cases. The safeguards which this Court laid down in Holland for the guidance of lower courts are, therefore, here of the utmost importance.

In its net worth analysis, the government allowed the petitioner no cash on hand whatever at the starting point (Ex. 80, App. 18). Yet the evidence shows substantial cash payments in the early days of 1948 (the first conviction year), most of which could have come only from cash on hand. (Ex. 41, Ex. 35, Ex. 33, p. 8). In its analysis as to cash on hand at the starting point, the majority opinion of the Court below glides over the unknown "plus" factor (Opinion, App. 8), although about $12,000 of cash on hand on January 1, 1948 would be sufficient to wipe out the claimed deficiencies in their entirety (Opinion, App. 18).

Though the Court below held that the government fulfilled its obligation to follow "leads," it is conceded that the government agents never interviewed Mrs. Ford, or Jean Ford, or for that matter even asked the petitioner how much cash he had on hand at the beginning of any prosecution year.

In addition, the elimination of the "likely source" requirement (supra Point I) as an effective element in net worth cases so waters down the safeguards which this Court announced in the Holland case that we respectfully submit little, if any, protection for defendants in like circumstances remains.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John P. Lomenzo
John P. Lomenzo
Times Square Bldg.,
Rochester 14, New York

/s/ Sydney R. Rubin
Sydney R. Rubin
310 Wilder Bldg.
Rochester 14, New York

Counsel for Petitioner

August 31, 1956.

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

For The Second Circuit

*

No. 174--October Term, 1955.

(Argued February 14, 1956 Decided August 6, 1956.)

Docket No. 23754

*

United States Of America,

Appellee,

-v.-

Bryan E. Ford,

Defendant-Appellant.

*

Before:

Clark, Chief Judge
Frank and Hincks, Circuit Judges.

*

Appeal from a judgment in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, Harold P. Burke, District Judge, of conviction on three counts for income tax evasion for the calendar years 1948, 1949, and 1950, in violation of Section 145 (b), Title 26, U. S. C., and from an order vacating a direction of acquittal on the first count charging evasion for the year 1947. Affirmed on Counts 2, 3 and 4; appeal as to Count 1 dismissed.

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DONALD F. POTTER, Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of New York, Rochester, N. Y., John O. Henderson, United States Attorney, W. D. N.Y., Rochester, N. Y., for appellee.

SYDNEY R. RUBIN, Rochester, N. Y., Lomenzo, Salzman & Witt, Rochester, N. Y., for defendant-appellant.

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Hincks, Circuit Judge:

This is an appeal from a judgment of conviction of income tax evasion on three counts of a five-count indictment which charged the defendant with evasion of his income tax for the calendar years 1947

through 1951, respectively. After a trial, in which the Government relied upon the so-called "net worth" theory of proof, he was convicted on the counts for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950, and acquitted on the count for 1951. The jury was unable to agree upon a verdict on the first count, for 1947, and following its stalemate the trial judge directed a verdict of acquittal on that count. Subsequently, on the defendant's motion for acquittal on all counts or, in the alternative, for a new trial, but prior to any imposition of sentence, the judge vacated his previous directed verdict of acquittal as to Count 1.

The defendant was a Rochester policeman who had joined the Police Department in 1921 as a patrolman and was thereafter continually employed on the force throughout the pre-indictment and indictment years. His annual gross salary ranged from a low of $1125 in 1921 to a high of $4400 in 1951. The defendant was assigned to special duty investigating vice at various times beginning about 1934. He was so assigned throughout 1947 and thereafter until about July 16, 1948. On the latter date he was transferred to the detective bureau where he remained until about May 1949 when he was returned to the vice squad. There was no evidence that he was engaged specifically in vice investigation during 1950 but he was restored to his vice investigation duties on about December 15, 1951.

Prior to trial the Government conducted a thorough investigation of the defendant's financial status and manner of life from the close of the calendar year 1941 through the close of the final indictment year 1951. The Government's investigation was exhaustive. Every bank in Rochester was checked for accounts of the defendant. The Surrogate's records in Monroe County were checked for possible legacies from relatives of the defendant and his wife, and a claimed legacy from the defendant's sister was negated; the United States Treasury records pertaining to the issuance of United States Savings Bonds were checked for bond purchases year by year; the various contractors who worked on the defendant's residence was interviewed to verify the cost figures given by the defendant; the department stores in Rochester were checked for purchases; the automobile dealers where the defendant had purchased

cars were chedked for the date of the purchase and the amount involved; The Rochester Gas and Electric Company was checked for payments by the defendant; the Clerk's office of the Monroe County Court House was checked for the date that his old house was sold, the amount for which it was sold, and the date he purchased the property on which his new house was located. This list is by no means inclusive. It is set forth here only as some indication of the meticulousness of the Government's investigation and to show that the specific items reflected in its net worth chart were based on undisputedly sufficient evidence.

In addition, Government agents questioned the defendant concerning his sources of income, inheritances, gifts, borrowed funds and the sources of his wife's income and funds. The Government treated the defendant and his family as an economic unit and calculated the defendant's assets, liabilities and expenditures on that basis. The Government purported to show the net worth (assets minus liabilities) of the defendant at the close of each calendar year beginning with 1941. Exhibit 80.* It credited the defendant with an opening net worth of $57,490.40 as of January 1, 1947, which figure included no allowance for cash on hand. To the increase (or decrease) in the defendant's net worth for each subsequent year in the indictment period, it added the defendant's personal (nondeductible) expenditures for that year thus determining his gross income. It calculated the defendant's taxable income for each year by subtracting from his gross income all known nontaxable income receipts and allowable non-business deductions during that year. By subtracting his reported income from his taxable income figures thus arrived at, the Government calculated unreported taxable income during the indictment years 1947 through 1950 of $15,455.61, $7,892.20, $2,976.17, and $1,103.2 respectively. For 1951 the Government calculated an overestimation of taxable income of $180.62.

For the pre-indictment years 1942 through 1946 the Government

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* Copy of Exhibit 80 will be appended to this opinion.

through the same basic scheme, calculated unreported taxable income of $4,996.32, $6,167.55, $5,648.68, $9,009.12, and $17,122.00, respectively. These figures were included in the net worth chart, Exhibit 80, which went to the jury.

It was the Government's theory that the unreported taxable income as indicated by its net worth chart was graft received by the defendant for nonperformance of his duties as a policeman and as a member of the vice squad. Although there was no direct evidence that the defendant ever received a bribe, the evidence did disclose that he had "opportunities" flowing from his position in charge of the investigation of vice. There was evidence that there was wide open gambling in Rochester during the spring and early summer of 1948 when the defendant was on the vice squad; that on three or four occasions between April and June 1948 the defendant had been told by Officer Stanton about the sale of policy slips by one Passorelli, but no action was taken until Officers Faulkner and Van Auker were notified of similar sales and thereupon made an arrest; that statistics of gambling cases disposed of in the City Court of Rochester indicated an upswing in prosecution of gambling from 1948 to 1951 after other officers had been assigned to the squad; and that the defendant was on friendly terms with a professional gambler, Thomas L. O'Brien, whose restaurant he and his wife patronized and whose house he had visited on two occasions. There was evidence that O'Brien had called the defendant by telephone two or three times in 1954 to inquire about rumors that the defendant was going back to the police force, and that at an unidentified date the defendant and his wife had briefly visited O'Brien at his summer cottage. Police Lieutenant Irish testified that while he, Irish, was on the vice squad he had been offered bribes on several occasions. This evidence was first admitted and subsequently stricken out by the court with instructions to the jury to disregard it.

The Government introduced proof of inconsistencies and fabrications in the defendant's extrajudicial explanations of his finances.

When the defendant was questioned by a superior in 1947 about the expensive home he was building on Gregory Hill Road, he claimed he could sell his Linden Street House for $10,000 and get a mortgage for the rest. Actually, the sale of the Linden Street residence netted him about $4800, and the new house costing $37,800, with the land and all improvements, was not mortgaged. In April of 1952, when interrogated by Revenue Agents, the defendant stated that the construction of his new home cost him only $19,400. He claimed to have received in 1943 an inheritance from his brother, Clarence, of $500, with which the Government credited him, and a gift of $8800 from Clarence in 1937 which went into bond purchases in later years.* He stated that he had no source of income from any other source than his salary. When asked how he could deposit over $13,000 in banks during 1946 and 1947 or his salary of about $3,000, the defendant replied, "That is a lot of money. It looks bad, doesn't it?" At a conference with the Revenue Agents in July 1952 he stated that the house cost "around $25,000" and when confronted with his prior statement said, I might have lied about that unwittingly. "I have nothing to conceal." At that time the defendant claimed the $500 inheritance and a gift of $8900 from Clarence in 1939 as his only gifts and inheritance. He stated that he used the gift from Clarence to make bank deposits in 1946 or 1947 and explained his bond purchases and other bank deposits

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* In this April explanation, the defendant claimed that he kept this sum in an envelope in the Police Benevolent Association safe until 1944, that he thereafter kept it at home until he deposited it in 1946 or 1947. Arthur J. Doyle, Treasurer of the Association, testified at the trial that he turned over to the defendant on March 1, 1938 a thin envelope from the safe. Mrs. Ford, also at the trial, testified on direct examination that this envelope was an inch think and was placed in the defendant's dresser drawer.

by systematic savings and accumulations,** an explanation which was completely destroyed by his wife's testimony at the trial.* In November 1952, at a meeting with Police Department officials, the defendant claimed for the first time that in 1940 he and Clarence had pooled some money for a joint business venture and that when the venture failed to materialize Clarence before his death in 1941 turned over the pooled funds to the defendant. He also mentioned then for the first time a legacy of his wife's from a Great Aunt Mary from the West which will be discussed later. The Government also presented evidence that the defendant had concealed bond purchases, expenditures, and bank accounts, and made misrepresentations relating to the purchase of a car for his daughter, Nancy, in his pre-indictment

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** The following is an excerpt from the testimony of Special Agent Nunn as to the July 1952 interview with the defendant.

"I told him during the year 1944 he had deposited $10,688.89. In that same year his salary was $2825.00. I asked him where the money came from, he said 'That was savings, also savings we had accumulated over a period of 30 years.' I told him in the year 1947 he deposited $17,198.50, and that during the same year his salary was $3073.38. He said 'Same procedure.' I told him in 1947 he deposited $18,734.00 and his salary was $3149.96. His answer was 'Same procedure.' Then I told him in each of the years, 1947 through 1951, 'Your deposits are greatly in excess of your salary.' He said 'My answer is the same for those years.' Then I told him that he had told us he had not received any other income in addition to his salary and the money from his brother. His answer was 'That is right.' I asked him 'Could you please explain how you accumulate this amount of money?' His answer was 'I can only tell you through savings.'"

The information included in this testimony had previously been reduced to writing in a signed statement by the defendant.

* The following is an excerpt from the cross-examination of Irma Ford, the defendant's wife, at the trial.

"Q. Now, did you manage to live wholly on Mr. Ford's salary? A. I tried to.

* * * * * * *

Q. All during the time he was employed on the Police Department? A. I tried to.

Q. Were you able to? A. Yes.

Q. Did you live, in fact, under his salary? A. No.

Q. You spent from his salary just about the amount that he earned? A. That is right.

Q. You were not able to save anything from his salary? A. No."

extra-judicial statements. In short, the evidence of fabrication, misrepresentation and concealment was strong and the jury may well have concluded that his constantly shifting explanations were incredible.

The defendant did not take the stand. The defense called several witnesses who were superiors and associates of the defendant on the police force. These witnesses testified to the defendant's reputation for being an efficient policeman and to his activities in suppression of vice. Irma Ford, his wife, testified on his behalf and claimed the existence of a substantial cash hoard on hand at the opening date (January 1, 1947) derived principally as gifts from Mrs. Ford's relatives, particularly a Great Aunt Mary of California, and from the defendant's brother Clarence. Mrs. Ford testified that she had $2000 when she married the defendant. She claimed to have received $2000 from Great Aunt Mary in 1922 and another $6000 over a subsequent period of five or six years, before Mary died. Out of a sizeable estate which, she testified, Mary bequeathed to Mrs. Ford's mother, she claimed to have further received approximately $5800 as gifts in three installments during 1937, 1938 and 1939. She also claimed gifts of $2400 from her daughter Jean in 1948 before Jean entered a convent. Mrs. Ford testified to the claimed gift of $8800 or $8900 from Clarence in about 1937 and also testified to finding a thick envelope containing money in the defendant's dresser drawer in the summer of 1941, a few months before Clarence's death, which contained the substantial sum (in an unspecified amount) allegedly left with the defendant by Clarence after their alleged business venture failed of consummation.

The Government introduced independent evidence tending to negate the claim of a substantial cash hoard on hand in 1947 and deriving from acquisitions in the 1920's and 1930's and to prove that its alleged existence was a fabrication. There was considerable evidence of small loans and debts throughout the 1930's. As late as 1940 the defendant borrowed $100 from the Central Trust Company. He made a payment thereon of $25 on June 24, 1940, and renewed the note in the amount of

$75 on August 8, 1940. On November 8, 1940, it was renewed again in the amount of $55, and was paid in full on February 8, 1941. In addition, the Government introduced evidence tending to show that even if the defendant's explanations as to the accumulation of the hoard were true the hoard had been dissipated by the acquisition of non-cash assets prior to January 1, 1947. According to the pre-trial statements of the defendant and the trial testimony of his wife as to the alleged sources of the hoard it had been fully accumulated in an amount in excess of $24,700 prior to the death of Clarence in November 1941. During the period from January 1, 1942 until the opening date, January 1, 1947, the Government's evidence purported to show approximately $43,000 of visible net worth increases and personal expenditures in excess of reported earnings. Therefore, even if the jury had believed the defendant's explanation, there would have been ample evidence to indicate an exhaustion of the hoard before January 1, 1947.

		Accumulation of Cash Hoard (per Defendant's evidence)		Dissipation of Cash Hoard (per Government's evidence
1919	Irma Ford's assets at marriage	$2,000	1942	$ 4,996.32
1922-28	Gifts from Aunt Mary	8,000	1943	6,167.55
1937-39	Gifts from Irma Ford's Mother out of Aunt Mary's bequest	5,800	1945	9,008.12
1937-41	Gifts from Clarence *	8,900 plus**	1946	17,122.00
	Total	24,700 plus		42,942.67 +

* The $500 bequest from Clarence is not included in this chart since the Government credited the defendant with exempt income in that amount for 1943.

** The additional amount was the sum alleged to have been contributed by Clarence to the joint venture with the defendant which Irma Ford testified was left with the defendant in 1941.

\+ The jury by failing to reach a verdict on the 1947 count in effect gave the defendant the benefit of the doubt as to an additional $15,455.61 in funds possibly accumulated prior to the indictment years.

The defendant does not challenge any of the specific items included in the net worth chart. Rather, he attacks the reliability of the opening net worth figure (January 1, 1947), claiming omission therefrom of a substantial cash hoard in currency then on hand. The Government credited the defendant with an opening net worth of $57,490.40. This figure included a credit for $36,303.33 deposited in seven bank accounts which the Government's investigation had uncovered. It did not, however, include any credit for currency on hand. The defendant asserts that this omission renders the Government's evidence of net worth so unreliable as to lack probity as a foundation for its purported calculation of unreported net income.

We think that was a question for the jury. Our function in passing on the sufficiency of the evidence is complete upon a determination that the opening net worth figure is supported by an adequate investigation, including the tracking down of leads furnished by the defendant, and is corroborated by some independent proof tending to negative the existence of a cash hoard on hand at the opening date.

Here, the opening figure was supported by an exhaustive investigation by the Government and was independently corroborated by evidence of the defendant's precarious financial condition during the period when, according to the defense, he had a substantial cash hoard on hand.* There was further evidence that even if the defendant had accumulated such a hoard as and when contended by the defense it would have been absorbed by his proved expenditures prior to the opening date.** Finally, there was evidence of the defendant's inconsistent, false and misleading extrajudicial statements which the jury might well have con-

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* The corroborative sufficiency of this type of evidence was approved by the Supreme Court in HOLLAND v. UNITED STATES, 348 U.S. 121, 132-6; in FRIEDBERG v. UNITED STATES, 348 U.S. 142, 143-5; and in SMITH v. UNITED STATES, 348 U.S. 147, 157-8.

** With regard to similar evidence in UNITED STATES v. CALDERON, 348 U.S. 160, 167, the Supreme Court stated, "There could hardly be more conclusive independent evidence of the crime."

cluded were intentionally fabricated. **

In the context of this case, it is not necessary for us to decide whether any one of these lines of corroborative proof was sufficient. Their cumulative effect was to produce firm ground to infer the accuracy of the Government's opening net worth figure. To reduce the totality of proofs to its component parts and examine each part for its independent probative efficacy would be to distort the overwhelming substantiality of the proofs as a whole into a congeries of irrelevant abstractions.

Since the Government thus furnished adequate evidence of the substantial accuracy of its opening net worth figure and since the other figures on its chart were independently supported and were never challenged, it follows that there was adequate support for a finding by the jury of unreported income during the indictment years from some source. The fact that the Government thoroughly investigated the defendant's affairs and financial condition and yet failed to uncover any substantial nontaxable receipts beyond that shown on its chart, was sufficient, at least for purposes of its prima facie case, + to negative an inference that the receipts thus demonstrated may have derived from a nontaxable source.

Somewhat overlapping the contention just above dealt with, the defendant claims that the Government's proofs were insufficient because of its failure to track down leads furnished in his extrajudicial explanations as to the source of his net income and expenditures. We do not agree. His claim as to the low cost of his new house the Government did track down - and found substantially exaggerated. His claim

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** Proof of fabrication of an alibi is itself some affirmative evidence of guilt. UNITED STATES v. SIMONE, 2 Cir., 205F. 2d 480, 482-3; 3 Wigmore on Evidence §§278, 279 (3rd Ed. 1940). Of course, standing alone, such evidence would not be sufficient to support a conviction. But when coupled with extensive affirmative proof of tax evasion under the net worth method, it may suffice. UNITED STATES v. ADONIS, 3 Cir., 221 F. 2d 717.

+ Cf. ROSSI v. UNITED STATES, 289 U.S. 89.

of a legacy from his sister was checked and found untrue. His statement that he kept a large sum of cash derived from his brother in the Police Department safe was apparently tracked down as far as possible with a result by no means favorable to the defendant's contention. His claims as to the receipt in pre-indictment years and his disposition of various cash gifts received from his brother Clarence and of gifts to his wife through her Great Aunt Mary were so vague that they were not susceptible of further investigation. The burden on the Government in this respect was only to provide "effective negation of reasonable explanations by the taxpayer inconsistent with guilt. Such refutation might fail when the Government does not track down relevant leads furnished by the taxpayer - leads reasonably susceptible of being checked, which, if true, would establish the taxpayer's innocence." HOLLAND, pp. 135, 136. Here the explanations were neither "reasonable" nor "susceptible of being checked."

Moreover, here as in Holland, even if the defendant's leads were assumed to be true, "the incidents relied on by the petitioner (the defendant here) were so remote in time and in their connection with subsequent events proved by the Government that" whatever the defendant's net worth was in 1941 (when the last contribution from Clarence was allegedly received), it "appears by convincing evidence that" on January 1, 1947, he had only such assets as the Government credited to him in its opening net worth figure. Here, even if all the pre-indictment gifts claimed had been received as and when claimed, they did not prove cash on hand on January 1, 1947. At most, they would explain only part of the $43,000 by which his combined increase in visible net worth and personal expenditures, as shown by the Government's chart, exceeded his aggregate income as reported for the years 1941 through 1946.

Nor do we agree with the contention made that in the circumstances of this case the Government, to prevail, was required to interview the defendant's wife about her own assets, sources of exempt income and the receipt of the gifts said to have been received from her

Aunt Mary. It is true that the financial status and history of Mrs. Ford was clearly relevant to the prosecution of the defendant, especially since the family was treated as a unit for purposes of calculating net worth increases and expenditures. But we think the Government adequately exhausted investigation of that possible source of income by its questioning of the defendant in July 1952 as to his wife's assets and sources of income. He stated then that his wife did not work except occasionally in a hospital, that she had no stocks or securities, but that she "had a little money that her folks left her." Moreover, it may not be assumed that a pre-trial interview with Mrs. Ford would have added anything to the case not contributed by her testimony on trial. And that testimony, even if true, did not impugn the Government's opening net worth statement, as we have noted in the preceding paragraph.

In short, we think the amplitude of the investigation actually made, summarized elsewhere in this opinion, fully satisfied the investigatory burden on the Government and justified all the inferences, affirmative and negative, which the jury apparently based thereon.

The defendant also contends that the net worth proofs were not corroborated by proof of a likely source of additional income and hence were insufficient to support the verdict. The argument would have pertinence, we think, only if there were a lack of other evidence to prove that the defendant had unreported current receipts. Here, however, without proof of a likely source the Government's proofs were fully adequate to support a finding that the defendant had substantial unreported receipts during the indictment years from some source. For the proofs, as we have seen, negatived the defendant's claim of a cash hoard on hand during the indictment period and supported the accuracy of the Government's opening net worth figure. The other figures in the Government's net worth chart were affirmatively supported by the Government's investigation and indeed were not challenged. The Government having thus established unreported current receipts from some

source, all that was needed to complete a prima facie case was enough proof to negative the possibility that the unreported current receipts thus established were nontaxable.

Merely to supply this necessary link in the Government's case, it was not necessary to prove directly the receipt of graft or that graft was a "likely source" in the sense that it was a source which the defendant had actually drawn upon. "Likely source" is but one method to negative all the possible nontaxable sources of the alleged net worth increases: it is not always an indispensable element in a net worth case. UNITED STATES v. ADONIS, 3 Cir., 221 F. 2d 717. This conclusion, we think is supported by passages in SMITH v. UNITED STATES, 348 U. S. 147, 158, and UNITED STATES v. CALDERON, 348 U. S. 160, 164 and 165, and is wholly consistent with HOLLAND v. UNITED STATES, 348 U. S. 121, 137 and 138. Direct proof of a likely source here was unnecessary because the Government sufficiently proved unreported current receipts by directly substantiating its opening net worth figure by independent evidence and because the results of its exhaustive investigation of the defendant's affairs warranted an inference that he had no nontaxable income during the indictment years not credited to him on the Government's net worth chart.*

The defendant urges that the evidence relating to graft opportunities should have been excluded as prejudicial to the defendant since the Government failed to link him directly with graft. We do not agree. The evidence showing the possibility of graft, although not sufficient in itself to prove unreported current receipts, was relevant and material for its tendency to show that the unreported receipts, independently established, derived from a taxable source. The evidence therefore was properly received as corroborative. It added strength to the inference that the unreported receipts were taxable.

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* We do not overlook the fact that the Judge charged that, to convict, the jury must find that the defendant actually received graft. In this respect, we think the charge was too favorable to the defendant. It overlooked the availability of inferences based on other independent evidence.

The finding of the defendant's willfulness was supported by an abundance of evidence. Here, as in HOLLAND, p. 139, there was evidence of a consistent pattern of underreporting comparatively substantial amounts of income both within and before the indictment years. And the use of fabrications to deny the underreporting of income, rather than a defense of non-willful negligence in failing to report it, provides some additional evidence of a willful attempt to evade income taxes through concealment of taxable sources. GARIEPY v. UNITED STATES, 6 Cir., 189 F. 2d 459, 463; SASSER v. UNITED STATES, 5 Cir., 208 F. 2d 535, 539.

On appeal, it has been suggested in behalf of the defendant that despite the absence of admissions or other proof that he received graft, it is possible that he did do so prior to the indictment years and thereby built up a cash hoard sufficient to account for the apparent unreported income in the indictment years. On this theory the defendant's fabrications are explained as an effort to conceal guilt in receiving graft rather than guilt of tax evasion. In consequence, it is argued, the fabrications may not be treated as corroborative of the Government's opening net worth figure. Although this contention runs counter to the defendant's pre-trial assertions and the theory of the defense at the trial, it has some plausibility and deserves consideration to the extent that it may have bearing on the prima facie sufficiency of the Government's proof.

But we cannot indulge in the assumption that the defendant took graft in large amounts prior to the opening indictment date and shut our eyes to the likelihood that, if so, he continued to do so during the indictment years when the source remained available. If we assume, as we are now asked to do, that prior to 1947 the defendant actually profited through graft, by the defendant's own hypothesis accompanied by proof of opportunities for graft there existed a likely source of unreported taxable income during the indictment years which constituted adequate corroboration of the Government's proofs of addi-

tional taxable income, under the HOLLAND doctrine.

In addition to the major contentions already discussed, the defendant presses several other claims of error all of which we find without merit. He suggests the possibility that some of his excess funds might have come from his son, James Ford. Not only was such a claim not made prior to or at the trial, but James Ford testified that prior to the indictment years he was successively at college, in the army, and at law school, and during the indictment years until April 1949 he was successively employed by a law firm for approximately $25 a week, and as a Post Office Clerk for about $60 a week. Thereafter, he was employed as a claims examiner with the State Labor Department. On the evidence the jury might reasonably have concluded that none of the defendant's expenditures derived from James. Moreover, the Government need not negate every possible source of nontaxable income where leads are not forthcoming. HOLLAND v. UNITED STATES, supra, at 138; ROSSI v. UNITED STATES, 289 U. S. 89, 91-92; WARRING v. UNITED STATES, 4 Cir., 222 F. 2d 906, 911-912.

The defendant contends that the conviction must be reversed because the entire case rests on the accuracy of the Government's opening net worth figure and that the jury's inability to reach a verdict for 1947 imports a finding that the figure was inaccurate. That argument is specious. On appeal we are concerned not with the impact of the evidence on the jury but with its legal sufficiency. We think the evidence sufficiently supported the Government's opening net worth figure for 1947 even though the jury for some reason failed to convict on the 1947 count. Even if the jury had acquitted the defendant on the 1947 count that acquittal would not destroy the validity of its verdict for subsequent years. UNITED STATES v. COSTELLO, 2 Cir., 221 F. 2d 668, 673; UNITED STATES v. COPLON, 2 Cir., 185 F. 2d 629, 633; HORNE v. UNITED STATES, 5 Cir., 193 F. 2d 175. That is so quite apart from the fact that in this case the opening figure for 1948, although calculated by the scheme of that for 1947, was based on independent data.

It is urged by the defendant that the evidence of opportunities from graft went beyond the limits of the order of preclusion entered by the judge before trial which precluded the Government "from introducing evidence at the trial as to the claimed possible or probable sources of the defendant's alleged undisclosed income, except to show that the defendant was employed as a police officer, the nature of his duties as such * * * and that the defendant's increase in net worth did not come from a non-taxable source or sources." This order substantially followed the language used by the Government in its bill of particulars stating what it intended to prove. We think the proofs properly fell within the confines of the order. In addition there is no claim that the defendant was surprised by the evidence.

Error is assigned for failure of the trial court to inform defense counsel as to its rulings on the defendant's requests to charge in advance of summation. Rule 30 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure provides that, "The court shall inform counsel of its proposed action upon the requests prior to their arguments to the jury * * *." We think that in the setting of this case strict compliance with the Rule was waived when counsel, without request or objection, proceeded with his summation. But even if there were technical error it was harmless. The judge charged in substantial compliance with all the defendant's requests save one and there is neither assertion nor showing of harm resulting from noncompliance with the Rule.

The defendant also assigns as error the admission of the items on the net worth chart purporting to show Additional Unreported Net Income for the pre-indictment years 1942 through 1946. This evidence was highly relevant both on the issue of the defendant's intent * and to refute the defendant's claim as to a substantial cash hoard on hand at the opening indictment date consisting of receipts from Clarence or Aunt

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* Bateman v. United States, 9 Cir., 212 F. 2d 61, 66, 68; Hanson v. United States, 8 Cir., 186 F. 2d 61, 66; Lisansky v. United States, 4 Cir., 31 F. 2d 846, 851. Cf. Johnson V. United States, 318 U. S. 189.

Mary prior to 1942. We hold that this evidence was properly admitted.

The defendant claims prejudice from the admission of Irish's testimony that on occasions he had been approached with offers of graft money. Subsequent to its admission this testimony was stricken on the authority of FORD v. UNITED STATES, 5 Cir., 210 F. 2d 313, and in the charge the jury was admonished to disregard it. If its admission was erroneous, we think the subsequent action taken must be deemed to have sufficiently safeguarded the defendant from resulting prejudice. We incline to think, however, that in view of the independent evidence of unreported income during the indictment period the testimony was relevant and admissible for its bearing on the source of that income. It tended to show that Rochester police officials had opportunities to obtain taxable income in the nature of graft and thus reinforced an inference, permissible on other evidence, that the defendant's unreported income was taxable. We hold that nothing connected with this item is cause for reversal.

Finally, there is a claim that the trial court erred in vacating its directed verdict of acquittal on Count 1 of the indictment. The argument is that if the defendant is retired on that count he will be placed in double jeopardy. Since the order is interlocutory and the defendant has not yet been placed in jeopardy thereunder, the issue is not currently appealable and the pending appeal as to Count 1 must accordingly be dismissed. LEWIS v. UNITED STATES, 216 U.S. 611; UNITED STATES v. SWIDLER, 3 Cir., 207 F. 2d 47, cert. denied 346 U. S. 915. Cf. BERMAN v. UNITED STATES, 302 U. S. 211.

Affirmed on Counts 2, 3, and 4. Appeal dismissed on Count 1.

Net Worth and Expenditure Statement

BRYAN E. FORD
71 Gregory Hill Rd.
Rochester, N. Y.

Years ending—12-31—	*1941*	*1942*	*1943*	*1944*	*1945*	*1946*	*1947*	*1948*	*1949*	*1950*	*1951*
Assets:											
Cash in Banks—											
Monroe County Savings Bank #310-094	1,090.25	3,049.56	4,450.92	5,728.41	6,217.28	7,840.67	2,939.96	2,984.20	3,029.12	3,074.70	3,136.49
Monroe County Savings Bank #327-976	2,369.23	3,053.55	5,163.87	6,345.98	3,141.20	4,864.85	2,726.46	741.35	829.06	836.11	854.42
Community Savings Bank	—	—	—	—	—	2,551.12	2,237.28	2,120.39	1,148.56	1,165.84	1,189.26
Genesee Valley Trust Co.	—	—	—	—	—	1,829.85	4,365.20	3,703.69	1,972.01	1,991.77	2,011.72
Genesee Valley Trust Co.	—	—	—	—	—	4,418.30	3,284.65	1,374.82	1,388.59	1,402.50	4,629.27
Central Trust Co. #2555	2,878.44	1,032.33	2,681.77	7,059.97	10,825.22	12,095.65	6,153.75	2,781.34	1,297.94	810.94	819.06
Central Trust Co.—checking account	—	—	2,641.84	1,207.81	1,309.15	2,702.89	3,953.79	1,277.04	1,507.73	1,201.15	875.56
U. S. Government Bonds	168.75	6,581.25	7,462.50	8,831.25	12,900.00	13,200.00	28,462.50	28,800.00	29,081.25	27,881.25	20,700.00
Real Estate—											
69 Linden St.	7,080.00	7,080.00	7,080.00	7,080.00	7,080.00	7,080.00	7,080.00	—	—	—	—
71 Gregory Hill Rd.	—	—	—	—	4,000.00	4,000.00	14,550.21	34,638.31	37,788.31	37,814.31	37,842.81
Automobiles	—	—	—	—	—	1,627.36	1,627.36	2,125.82	2,125.82	2,418.00	2,418.00
Total Assets	13,586.67	20,796.69	29,480.90	36,253.42	45,472.85	62,210.69	77,381.16	80,546.96	80,168.39	78,596.57	74,476.59
Liabilities:											
Mortgage Payable—											
69 Linden St.	5,180.72	5,087.81	4,990.33	4,882.74	4,800.51	4,720.29	4,618.95	—	—	—	—
NET WORTH	8,405.95	15,708.88	24,490.57	31,370.68	40,672.34	57,490.40	72,762.21	80,546.96	80,168.39	78,596.57	74,476.59

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Frank, Circuit Judge (dissenting):

HOLLAND v. U. S., 348 U. S. 121, and its companion decisions warn us that the net-worth method is a dangerous instrument, to be used with caution, lest it may have the effect of unconstitutionally putting on an accused the burden of proving his innocence.[1] Because of that warning, I have such doubts about affirming this conviction that I feel constrained to dissent.

The trial judge, in the plainest terms, told the jury that it could not find defendant guilty, unless it found (1) that he had a "probable source of income" (other than his salary or interest on his bank account and bonds) and (2) that this probable source was graft. His charge, in this respect, reads: "To justify the use by the Government of this net-worth-expenditure method you must be satisfied on all the evidence in the case that the defendant has a probable source of income other than his salary and the interest on his bank accounts and the bond interest. You must be satisfied that the probable source of his income was in some way connected with his duties as head of the Vice Squad, with receiving money or things of value either in exchange for services rendered to people whom he came in contact with as an officer of the Vice Squad, or exchange for forbearing to do something he was supposed to do as an officer of the Vice Squad."

According, then, to the theory on which the case went to the jury, probable graft was an essential element of the government's case; and HOLLAND v. U. S. teaches that every essential element must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Of course, such proof of any essential may be by circumstantial ("indirect") evidence. But I think that here the circumstantial evidence of probable graft - which Judge Hincks significantly calls proof of "the possibility of graft" was much too meager to justify a jury finding of the existence of that element. For look at that evidence as Judge Hincks describes it:

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[1] See HOLLAND v. U. S., 348 U. S. at 128.

(a) When defendant was on the vice squad , there was wide open illegal gambling.

(b) While on this squad, in 1948 defendant was told, by another policeman, of the sale of policy slips by one Passorelli, but "no action was taken" until two other officers, learning of this fact, made an arrest.

(c) The number of prosecutions for gambling increased when other policemen were assigned to the vice squad.

(d) Defendant was on "friendly terms" with O'Brien, a professional gambler; defendant and his wife patronized O'Brien's restaurant; twice, they visited at O'Brien's house and once at O'Brien's summer cottage. After defendant had left the police force, O'Brien phoned defendant two or three times to ask whether defendant was going back on the force.

(Another policeman, Irish, testified that while on the vice squad he (Irish) had "been offered bribes" several times. But this item of evidence was stricken.)

I think a jury could not reasonable infer from this evidence that defendant had probably received graft. Observe that defendant was but a subordinate of the Chief of Police. Even assuming that defendant allowed too much gambling to go on unmolested when he was on the squad, it may well be that he did so under orders from the Chief; judicial notice informs us that experience in many cities shows the great likelihood of such a situation. The statistics as to the number of arrests are misleading; Winfield, the government witness who supplied these figures, testified that one single raid accounted for a very large number of arrests; that in a single raid in 1950 about 100 persons were arrested and that the figures did not show the number of raids as distinguished from the number of arrests.

The "Texas Ford case," FORD v. U.S., 210 F. 2d 313, 318 (C.A. 5) - cited by Judge Hincks in another connection - was a pre-

Holland decision. The defendant was Chief of Police. On its face, the court's opinion might seem to support Judge Hincks as to the proof of probable graft. But, in the instant case, the government in its brief itself says of that case: "While it does not appear in the court's opinion, the record in that case discloses that the defendant there had received gifts of clothing from the operators of some of the gambling establishments." [2] In the case at bar, there is not a syllable of such evidence.

It is this circuit's doctrine that, in a criminal case, there is no difference, when it comes to granting a judgment of acquittal, between a "preponderance" and "beyond a reasonable doubt," that the difference is for the jury only. I have recently said why I disagree with that doctrine. U. S. v. MASIELLO, F. 2d (C.A. 2, July 18, 1956). But in the instant case, I think the difference unimportant because I think that, if probable grafting was an indispensable element of the government's case, the government's proof of that fact was so flimsy that it did not approach anything remotely like a preponderance.

As I read Judge Hincks' opinion, he is not willing to hold that, if graft were an essential element, the evidence on that issue would be sufficient. For otherwise he would surely have simplified his opinion by affirming on the quite simple theory presented by the Judge to the jury (which Judge Hincks mentions only in passing and then in a footnote). Judge Hincks sedulously avoids affirmance on that ground. Instead, he elaborately, over several pages, works out a different theory which is as follows:

> (1) There was no need whatever here for the government to prove a "likely source," because the evidence was entirely adequate to support a finding that defendant had unreported receipts during the indictment years which must have derived from "some source" or other, without specifying any.

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[2] See also DAVENA v. U.S., 198 F. 2d 230, 231 (C.A. 9).

(2) Consequently, the government made a case for the jury without the evidence of probable graft, i.e., the jury could reasonably have found defendant guilty if no evidence of probable graft had been received.

(3) However, evidence of "possibility of graft" was properly received as "corroborative" of the evidence that the unreported taxable income derived from some unidentified source or other, corroborative in the sense that it added what was not essential, i.e., proof of a particular likely source.

I shall, for the moment, assume that Judge Hincks correctly says that no proof of a "likely source" was needed here, that it sufficed to prove "some source" without proof of any particular probable source.[3] If so, the evidence of possible grafting was admissible only if it tended to show (although unnecessarily) a particular likely source. But, as noted above, that evidence was so exceedingly slim that it could not tend to prove that fact.

Therefore, the reception of that evidence should have led to a mistrial or, at the very least, that evidence should have been stricken from the record. For it was most prejudicial since, on the basis of that flimsy evidence, a jury of Rochester citizens were allowed to hear arguments by the prosecutor that the accused had been a grafting Rochester policeman, and the judge's charge heavily underscored the importance of that evidence.

Judge Hincks attempts to get rid of this error by relegating to a footnote that part of the trial judge's charge which made probable graft a central issue, and by then saying in that footnote that that charge "was too favorable to the defendant." Surely the phrase "too favorable" is a quaint way of characterizing a charge centering on prejudicial evidence that should not have been in the case. Had the

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[3] At one point, Judge Hincks says no "direct proof" of a particular likely source was necessary. If he means that "indirect" or circumstantial evidence of a particular likely source would do, I agree. But there was lack of any but the flimsiest "indirect" evidence on that score.

case gone to the jury without the evidence concerning graft and under a charge contrived in accord with Judge Hincks' theory, the jury might or might not have found defendant guilty. But I think we cannot properly affirm a conviction resulting from a conjectural verdict based on an imaginary charge with reference to an imaginary record, i.e., a record not containing the prejudicial evidence about graft. Judge Hincks seems to regard this error as "harmless," for he apparently seeks to exorcise it by stating that we must look to "the totality of proofs," their "overwhelming substantiality," and must avoid "irrelevant abstractions." I think the markedly prejudicial error in the reception of the graft evidence, emphasized by the judge's charge, is no "irrelevant abstraction." It is the very kind of error which could easily account for the verdict. KOTTEAKOS v. U. S., 328 U. S. 750, admonishes us that such an error is not "harmless," that we may not affirm a conviction merely because, reading a cold record, we believe the defendant would have been convicted if the error had not occurred.

Moreover, I gravely doubt the validity of a basic postulate of Judge Hinck's theory. That is, I question whether HOLLAND v. U. S., 348 U. S. 121, ever permits a conviction in a net-worth case without proof of a "likely source," which (to quote Judge Hincks) "the defendant had actually drawn upon." Cf. U. S. v. COSTELLO, 221 F. 2d 668, 670-671 (C. A. 2). True, in HOLLAND, the Supreme Court said (137-138) that proof of such a source is "sufficient"; and one can argue that there is a difference between what is an essential and what is "sufficient."

But in HOLLAND, the Court (at 137) carefully pointed out that there was a "likely source" in the income from the hotel. In discussing (at p. 138) U. S. v. JOHNSON, 319 U. S. 503, the court said that there "the taxpayer was the owner of an undisclosed business capable of producing taxable income," and that in HOLLAND there was such a "disclosed business" (i.e., the hotel). Also (at p. 126) the Court said: "In each of the four cases decided today the allegedly unreported income comes from the same disclosed sources as produced the taxpayer's re-

ported income * * *"

Judge Hincks, I think, misinterprets SMITH v. U.S., 348 U. S. 147. I think it makes clear (1) that proof of a "likely source" is necessary and (2) that even a defendant's affirmative admissions, during a pre-indictment investigation, must be corroborated. In the SMITH case, the evidence showed the following: The year before the indictment years, defendant had acquired a racing-news service, described by the Court as "a business producing unrecorded amounts of income." (See 348 U.S. at 149, 159.) In the course of a pre-indictment investigation, defendant had made a written statement affirmatively admitting what he called his "true net worth." The government relied, in large part, on this written admission. The Court said that, "whether we consider the statement an admission of one of the formal 'elements' of the crime or of a fact subsidiary to the proof of these 'elements,' " it was "crucial" to, "an element vital to," the government's case. As the admission was made after the commission of the alleged crime, the Court held it required corroboration because, though not "involuntary," still "its reliability" was "suspect," since it was "extracted from one *** under pressure of" an investigation, "whose words may reflect rather the strain and confusion attending his predicament rather than a clear reflection of his past." In discussing (pp. 156-157) the "quantum of corroboration," the Court said, "all elements of the offense must be established by independent evidence or corroborated admissions," adding at once, "but one available mode of corroboration is for the independent evidence to bolster the confession itself and thereby prove the offense 'through' the statements of the accused. Under the above standard the Government may provide the necessary corroboration by introducing substantial evidence, apart from petitioner's admissions, tending to show the petitioner understated his taxable income." This entire discussion is, in its context, concerned exclusively with proof of corroboration of an affirmative admission. The same is true of the court's subsequent discussion (pp. 158-159). There the Court said, "But sub-

stantiating the opening net worth is just one method of corroborating these extra-judicial statements," and went on to state that the "admissions may also be corroborated by an entirely different line of proof - by independent evidence concerning petitioner's conduct during the prosecution period, which tends to establish the crime of tax evasion without resort to the net worth computations." The Court then summarized the evidence of his conduct "coincident with petitioner's opening of the racing-news service." This conduct, the Court concluded, "does corroborate the net worth statement by tending to show that petitioner was understating his income during the prosecution years." Here, again, the Court spoke of the necessity, in one way or another, of corroborating the defendant's admissions, and again referred to a business which was a "likely source."

However, let us assume, arguendo, that, in an appropriate case, it is not essential to prove a "likely source." Even so, I have these doubts about Judge Hincks' reasoning, which, as I understand it runs thus:

> For proof of a likely source, the government could substitute evidence, in the form of statements emanating from the defendant, which negated the possible existence of enough non-taxable sources to account for the apparently unreported taxable income. This substituted essential element of the government's case was not proved by defendant's testimony, since he did not take the stand. It was, says Judge Hincks, sufficiently proved by evidence of defendant's lies during the course of the pre-indictment investigation.

If, then, I understand Judge Hincks, these out-of-court lies became an essential part of the government's case. Judge Hincks' reasoning therefore disturbs me: Assuming arguendo, that proof of a likely source was not necessary, then if defendant, out of court, had made affirmative admissions of facts tending to show unreported

taxable income (or lack of a sufficient "cash hoard" or the like), such admissions, if corroborated, would have sufficed. But defendant's out-of-court statements were, at most, lies, by way of denying such affirmative facts. Do such negative statements measure up to admissions? To put it differently, assuming again that proof of a likely source was not needed, do these negative statements (falsehoods) suffice, even if corroborated, to support the verdict?

I think not. As above noted, the SMITH case calls for corroboration of even an affirmative admission. The reason for such a requirement is also stated, in HOLLAND, 348 U.S. 121 at 128-129, where the Court observed that, in the course of a pre-indictment investigation, the taxpayer "may be more concerned with a quick settlement than an honest search for truth," and said, "The problem of corroboration, dealt with in the companion case of Smith v. U.S., post 147, and U. S. v. Calderon, post 160, therefore becomes crucial.". Note, then that (as in Smith) in U.S. v. Calderon (348 U.S. at 164) the defendant had made pre-indictment affirmative admissions, and that (pp. 165 ff.) there was evidence corroborating these admissions.

To be sure, if there were enough independent evidence, aside from pre-indictment lies (negative statements), then, of course, evidence of those lies would be admissible as cumulative evidence. Like flight, or a false alibi, or spoliation of documents, such lies are proof of a guilty mind. But, absent independent evidence otherwise sufficient to prove facts essential to a verdict of guilt, I doubt whether evidence of lies, flight, false alibis or spoliation will support such a verdict, especially in a net-worth case. The reason for not accepting such evidence as proof of an essential element was stated by Judge Shaw in COMM. v. WEBSTER, 5 Cush. 295, 316: An "innocent man, when placed in a condition of suspicion and danger, may resort to deception." See also AYALA v. U.S., 268 Fed. 296, 300 (C.A. 1); VICK v. U. S., 216 F. 2d 228, 232 (C.A. 5).

Increase—(decrease) in Net Worth	7,302.93	8,781.69	6,880.11	9,301.66	16,818.06	15,271.81	7,784.75	(378.57)	(1,571.82)	(4,119.98)
Cost of Living	608.39	800.86	1,854.57	2,998.46	4,140.11	3,573.96	5,819.61	5,482.62	5,401.85	4,640.86
Add: Loss on trade-in of 1946 DeSoto							353.04			
Loss on trade-in of 1948 Pontiac									858.82	
Purchase of 1949 Ford								1,964.00		
Purchase of 1951 Plymouth										1,972.50
Gift to James Ford										2,126.00
Payment of Loan of Helen McLaughlin									615.09	
Total	7,911.32	9,582.55	8,734.68	12,300.12	20,958.17	18,845.77	13,957.40	7,068.05	5,303.94	4,619.38
Less: Disability Pension	240.00	240.00	261.00	276.00	294.40	331.20	331.20	333.60	360.00	360.00
Inheritance — Clarence Ford		500.00								
50% of Gain on Sale of Residence							1,085.00			
Allowance on Sale of 1941 Plymouth					550.00					
Total	240.00	740.00	261.00	276.00	844.40	331.20	1,416.20	333.60	360.00	360.00
Corrected Gross Income	7,671.32	8,842.55	8,473.68	12,024.12	20,113.77	18,514.57	12,541.20	6,734.45	4,943.94	4,259.38
Less: Page 3 Deductions Allowable	—	—	—	603.50	668.00	717.69	723.63	1,037.83	969.67	978.15
Corrected Net Income	*7,671.32	*8,842.55	*8,473.68	11,420.62	19,445.77	17,796.88	11,817.57	5,696.62	3,974.27	3,281.23
Net Income per Return	*2,675.00	*2,675.00	*2,825.00	2,411.50	2,323.77	2,341.27	3,925.37	2,720.45	2,871.05	3,461.85
Additional Net Income	*4,996.32	*6,167.55	*5,648.68	9,009.12	17,122.00	15,455.61	7,892.20	2,976.17	1,103.22	—

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Judge Hincks apparently disagrees with what I said in the preceding paragraph. He cites, inter alia, HOLLAND v. U.S., 348 U. S. 121; FRIEDBERG v. U.S., 348 U. S. 142, and U. S. v. CALDERON, 348 U. S. 160, 167. I think my discussion of HOLLAND and SMITH, supra, shows that they do not bear him out. I see nothing on the subject in FRIEDBERG: there the defendant took the stand and "vacillated" in his testimony (see 248 U.S. at 143). Speaking of the defendant's "false and misleading extra-judicial statements," Judge Hincks surprisingly remarks that the Supreme Court, "with regard to similar evidence," stated in U. S. v. CALDERON, 348 U.S. 160, 167, "There could hardly be more conclusive independent evidence of the crime." Judge Hincks has overlooked the fact that this statement of the Supreme Court refers to "respondent's testimony at the trial" conflicting with his "testimony at a former trial."[4]

Judge Hincks also cites several circuit court cases. All but one (i.e., U.S. v. ADAMS, 221 F. 2d 717) are (1) unrelated to a net-worth problem and/or (2) ante-date the Supreme Court decision in HOLLAND and its companion decisions:

(a) SASSER v. U.S., 208 F. 2d 535 (C.A. 5) was pre-HOLLAND. Moreover, the evidence of the out-of-court lies was but one among several factors enumerated by the court, and not a factor essential to support the verdict.

(b) GARIEPY v. U.S., 189 F. 2d 459, 463 (C.A. 6) war pre-HOLLAND. Moreover, the court said the defendant had made affirmative "admissions"; the court also

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[4] The complete passage reads as follows: "Even more conclusive corroboration, however, is respondent's testimony at the trial that he had $16,000 or $17,000 cash on hand at the starting point. This conflicted with the statements being corroborated ($500) and respondent's testimony at a prior trial ($2,000 to $9,000), but for the purpose of independently establishing the crime charged the jury could accept this testimony. Respondent further testified that he had $3,000 or $4,000 in cash at the end of the prosecution period. Taken together with the remainder of the net worth statement, which was stipulated or independently established, this testimony establishes a deficiency in reported income of more than $30,000. There could hardly be more conclusive independent evidence of the crime."

said they were "admissible" because they "reinforced permissible inferences from evidence at the trial."

(c) U. S. v. SIMONE, 205 F. 2d 480, 482 (C. A. 2) was not a net-worth case; also, it was pre-HOLLAND. It relied on SMOLIN, 182 F. 2d 782, 786, "and cases there cited." So turn to SMOLIN, 182 F. 2d 782, 786 (C. A. 2). It, too, was not a net-worth case, and was pre-HOLLAND. It cited and relied on TUCKER v. U. S. 151 U. S. 164. But in TUCKER the defendant testified at the trial, and the Supreme Court said that his out-of-court statement was used to "contradict his testimony upon the stand."

The one post-HOLLAND net-worth case which seems to support Judge Hincks is U. S. v. ADONIS, 221 F. 2d 717 (C. A. 3). If it does, I think it wrong. See McCormick, Evidence (1954) 538-539. See also Morgan, 59 Harvard L. Rev. (1946) 480 at 557 to the effect that the "greater number of cases hold that spoliation does not amount" to "evidence of necessary facts not otherwise appearing in the case"; and see Maguire and Vincent, Admissions from Spoliation or Related Conduct, 45 Yale L. J. (1935) 227.

So I think, that, even on Judge Hincks' theory, the judge should have granted defendant's motion for a judgment of acquittal at the close of the government's evidence. Defendant, however, did not stand on the denial of this motion, but introduced evidence in his defense. If this evidence had contained anything affirmative which supplied the missing essential of the government's case, the jury's verdict would have been proper, on Judge Hincks' theory. But there was no such evidence introduced by the defense. The testimony of Mrs. Ford, a witness for the defense, did not do the trick. To be sure, the jury may well have believed that she lied. However, as she was but a witness, not a defendant, her lies constituted a negative only. They cannot, I think, supply affirmative proof, for the government,

of a missing essential. Even in a civil case in most jurisdictions, "disbelief of testimony is not the equivalent of proof of facts contrary to that testimony"; BOICE-PERRINE CO. v. KELLEY, 243 Mass. 327, 137 N. E. 731, 733; ZARILLO v. STONE, 317 Mass. 510, 58 N. E. (2d) 848, 849 (Mass.); CRUZAN v. N. Y., N. H. & H. RR. CO., 227 Mass. 594, 116 N. E. 879, 880; PARISO v. TOWSE, 45 F. 2d 962, 964 (C. A. 2). Consequently, although the defense put in evidence, that evidence did not strengthen the government's case. Wherefore, even in Judge Hincks' theory, we should reverse.[5]

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

for the

SECOND CIRCUIT

At a Stated Term of the United States Court of Appeals, in and for the Second Circuit, held at the United States Courthouse in the City of New York, on the 6th day of August, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-six.

Present: HON. CHARLES E. CLARK,
Chief Judge

HON. JEROME N. FRANK,

HON. CARROLL C. HINCKS,

Circuit Judges.

United States of America
Plaintiff-Appellee

v.

Bryan E. Ford,
Defendant-Appellant

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western District of New York

This cause came on to be heard on the transcript of record from the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, and was argued by counsel.

ON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, it is now hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the judgment of said District Court be and it hereby is affirmed on counts 2, 3, and 4; and that the appeal from said judgment on count 1 be and it hereby is dismissed.

A. DANIEL FUSARO
Clerk

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1957

No. 82

BRYAN E. FORD, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

SUGGESTION OF MOOTNESS

We have been informed that the petitioner died on October 6, 1957. Accordingly, it is suggested that the writ of certiorari be dismissed and the case remanded to the Court of Appeals for such further action as law and justice may require. *Dillon* v. *United States*, 350 U. S. 906; *American Tobacco Co.* v. *United States*, 328 U. S. 781, 815; *Singer* v. *United States*, 323 U. S. 338, 346; *United States* v. *Johnson*, 319 U. S. 503, 520.

Respectfully submitted.

J. LEE RANKIN,
Solicitor General.

OCTOBER 1957.

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